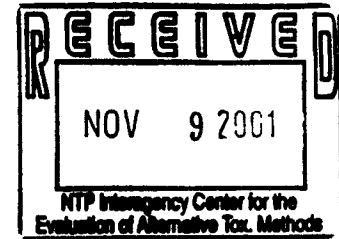


November 9, 2001

Michelle Wallhagen



Dr. William Stokes,
Director
NICEATM (MD EC-17)
NIEHS
P.O. Box 12233
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

RE: Report of the International Workshop on In Vitro Methods for Assessing Acute Systemic Toxicity

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I have heard that scientists at the NIEHS workshop have agreed to a partial implementation of in vitro testing to set a "starting dose" for lethal poisoning tests. I strongly support the use of in-vitro cell cultures as a replacement for lethal animal tests.

I encourage you to begin efforts to completely replace lethal dose testing with non-animal, in vitro testing methods. As the history of science shows, advancement in science is comprised not merely of advancement in theory, but in the adoption of better methods and techniques. Often, in fact, it is an advancement in technique that (unwittingly) opens new intellectual space for theorizing.

As a supporter of good science and a humanist, I ask you please to put the widespread adoption of in vitro cell culture use near the top of your agenda.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wallhagen